



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

Superior
National
Forest

LaCroix Ranger District
320 Highway 53 N.
Cook, MN 55723
Phone: (218) 666-0020
Fax: (218) 666-0022

File Code: 1950

Date: May 15, 2009

Dear Interested Parties:

Enclosed is a copy of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (Draft EIS) for the Border Project on the LaCroix Ranger District of the Superior National Forest.

The Border Project would implement the *2004 Superior National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan* by moving the project area toward desired conditions for vegetation and landscape ecosystems, including, for example, forest age class, vegetation composition, tree species and structure diversity. The transportation system needed for forest vegetation management is also addressed.

You are receiving this Draft EIS because you or your organization commented on the Border Project scoping package last spring. Instructions for commenting on the Draft EIS, if you wish to do so, are described below.

The Draft EIS describes the Project's purpose and need, significant issue, and three alternatives with associated effects. Alternative 1, no action, provides a baseline for comparison with the action alternatives. Alternative 2 is the Modified Proposed Action. Alternative 3 was developed to address the significant issue identified during public scoping. The Forest Service has identified Alternative 3 as the preferred alternative; this alternative best achieves Forest Plan direction and the Project's purpose and need while considering public comments.

The comment period for the Draft EIS will end 45 days from the date that the Notice of Availability is published in the Federal Register. If you have questions or concerns about the Border Project, it is important you comment during this time period. Public comments will be considered prior to making a final decision. In addition, people and organizations that provide comments or otherwise express interest in the project within the prescribed comment period are eligible to appeal pursuant to 36 CFR 215 regulations. Comments received in response to this solicitation, including names and addresses of those who comment, will become part of the public record for this proposed action.

Please provide the following information when commenting:

1. Name and address
2. Title of the project: Border Project Draft EIS
3. Specific comments on the Draft EIS along with supporting rationale
4. Signature or other verification of identity on request. In cases where no identifiable name is attached to a comment, a verification of identity will be required for appeal eligibility. If using an electronic message, a scanned signature is one way to provide verification.



Written comments sent via mail or FAX must be addressed to:

Nancy S. Larson, District Ranger
LaCroix Ranger District
320 Highway 53 N
Cook, MN 55723

Comments by phone or in person must be provided during normal business hours (8:00 am to 4:30 pm, Monday – Friday). Telephone: 218-666-0020.

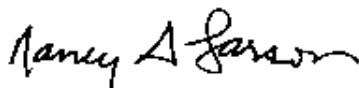
Electronic comments must be submitted in a format such as an email message or Word compatible document to comments-eastern-superior-la-croix@fs.fed.us.

Faxed comments may be sent to 218-666-0022.

An opportunity for the public to discuss the Draft EIS with the Border Project interdisciplinary team will occur on Friday June 5. You may sign up for the meeting/field trip by calling (218) 666-0020.

If you provide an email address in your comment, you will be notified via email when the Final EIS and Record of Decision (ROD) are available on the Superior National Forest web site. If you only provide an address, you will receive a CD of the Final EIS and ROD. If you wish to receive a printed copy of the Final EIS and ROD, you must specify that in your comment. If we do not hear from you, your name will be removed from the Border Project mailing list.

Sincerely,



NANCY S. LARSON
District Ranger

Enclosures